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Characteristics of Central USSR and
Russian Language Guide

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ EVALUATION OF APP 200-2-5

~~INTELLIGENCE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOUTHWEST USSR AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE GUIDE~~

Comments and corrections are as follows:

page 1. 3a (1) Word "Mordovians" should be deleted and replaced by "Mordvinians."

page 2. Word "Kalmyks" should be deleted from outline (see note regarding p. 7).

page 2. "Russian Orthodox Church" would be a better designation than "Greek Orthodox Church." Although Greek Orthodox in origin, Russian Orthodox is historically the national designation.

page 3-5. Belorussians, Ukrainians, Georgians, Mordvinians, and some Turkic-Satars also adhere to the Russian Orthodox Church rather than the Greek Orthodox Church.

page 4. The area occupied by Georgians is located adjacent to the eastern end of the Black Sea between the Northern Caucasus and the Turkish border and extends eastward to north of Kirovabad. Very few Georgians are found north of the Northern Caucasus.

page 4. Word "Mordovians" should be deleted and replaced with "Mordvinians."

page 4. Since the Mordvinians living in the vicinity of Gor'kiy and Kasan' are located north of 54°N latitude, they should be discussed in APP 200-2-6. Mordvinians living in Southwest USSR are scattered throughout an area extending eastward from Penza to the northeastern border of Ruybychovskaya Oblast'.

page 4. The Bashkirs, a Turkic-Finnish group, should be mentioned because they occupy a part of the southern Urals between Ufa and Akyubinsk.

page 7. It is unlikely that any Kalmyks would be encountered in Southwest USSR since they were dispersed and transported to other parts of the Soviet Union in 1943 and 1944. The Soviets announced in early 1957 that the Kalmyks would be allowed to return to the area around the Lower Volga, but none were expected to move before 1958.

page 13. The third and fourth paragraphs need editing.

page 14. The section entitled "Georgians and Armenians" should probably be expanded to include the following information: some mountain men still wear long belted coats, fleece caps, boots, breeches, and daggers. Beards are common.

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page 14. In addition to the clothes mentioned, Uzbeks of both sexes wear robes of dark-brown cotton cloth decorated with red stripes, leather boots or felt slippers, and headcloths.

page 17. The word "urban" would be a better all-inclusive term than "industrial."

page 22. The last sentence would be more nearly accurate if it read "it extends from the Carpathian Mountains eastward beyond the arid lands adjacent to the Caspian Sea."

page 23. In addition to the areas mentioned, many ridges and high plateaus are located in the grassland region between the Volga River and 60°E longitude. The Obshchii Syrt and the dissected upland flanking the Urals (the Mugodjars) both have rugged terrain features.

page 26. The hornbeam-beech forests rank second to oak as the most common on the northern slopes of the Caucasus.

page 27. Ridges in the Carpathians run in a predominantly northwest-southeast direction. Beech is the main deciduous tree of the southwestern slopes of the Carpathians, and hornbeam is the most common on the northeastern slopes. At about 2,000 feet elevation and above, conifers and beech predominate, giving way to spruce-fir forest at the higher elevations. Pine is not common in the Carpathians.

page 28. Elevations seldom exceed 4,000 feet in the southern Urals. Linden-aspen-elm forests are common on the western flank of the Urals.

page 28. "Rugged" is misspelled in the description of the features of the Crimean Mountains. Altitudes seldom exceed 4,500 feet rather than 4,000 feet as indicated in text. The summits of the various ranges should be designated as "plateaus" rather than "plains."

page 29. The climate of the Crimean Mountains is temperate only at lower levels on the southern slopes. In the Yaila or plateau region the climate is more severe. Snow falls on about 60 days a year, and winds of gale force are common.

page 31. Corn is one of the main crops in the grassland area.

page 35. Besides the rivers mentioned, the Donets is important as an inland waterway.

page 38. Few antelope are found in the semidesert areas. Of these the Saiga antelopes are the most widespread, but they are very few in number. Gazelles, a kind of antelope, are not found in the semidesert of Southwest USSR.

page 38. In addition to the desert fauna mentioned, land tortoises and porcupines are also common. Cobras are among the snakes that inhabit the southern part of the Kara-Kum Desert.

page 39. Contrary to the statements of the text, wolves have been almost exterminated and birdlife is poor in the mountainous areas of Crimea.

page 39. Elk are rare in the Carpathian Mountains.

page 40. The upper weight limit of roe deer should be increased to 130 pounds; this is the weight of large Siberian roebucks.

page 51. The Cobra should be included among the poisonous snakes since it inhabits the southern part of the Kara-Kum Desert.

page 52-56. The description of individual birds should deal with the more common types first, particularly those that are more likely to be encountered in cross-country movement.

page 58. The symptoms and effects of the spider bites of the black widow (Kara Kurt) and the tarantula (Muzgir) appear to be reversed. Contrary to the text, the bite of the black widow spider found in Southwest USSR can be deadly to men whereas the bite of the tarantula is more or less poisonous but is not dangerous to man.

page 59. In last paragraph, "dried" should read "died."

pages 62-70. The section entitled "Russian Language Guide" contains numerous errors and should be thoroughly overhauled. The following are a few examples of obvious errors:

page 63. "ЧЕСТЬ" should read "шесть" and "ЧЕСТЬДЕСЯТ" should read "шестьдесят".

pages 66 and 67. The curved lines used to indicate letters that are to be pronounced together are omitted throughout the section. The letter "O" should be given an "A" phonetic value except when appearing in an accented syllables (see phonetic spelling for "please", "cold", "good", "bad" etc.). As in AFP 200-2-6 and AFP 200-2-7, the equivalents of certain words appearing in the "Pronunciation" and "Russian Spelling" columns do not correspond or are incorrect. Compare, for example, the pronunciation and Russian spelling for the following words and phrases: American, help, guide, bedding, cigarette, coat, Good evening, Good night, and Good afternoon. Numerous hyphens are omitted in the "Pronunciation" column (Note phonetic spelling for following phrases: "How do I get there?", "Where is it safe?" etc.). Considering the limited language knowledge of the average reader, the column entitled "Russian Spelling" could be omitted.

page 68. Russian words for "mines" and "Marsh" are incorrect.

page 69. English city names "Iwov" should read "Lvov," and "Yaroslav" should read "Yaroslavl". Russian name for Stalingrad is incorrectly spelled.

page 69. The river place names should be limited to those rivers that are within the area covered by the text and to major, well-known rivers useful for orientation purposes. It would be more useful to name the Pechora, Northern Dvina, Kama, and Ural Rivers than the minor Neva and Onega Rivers located in Northwest USSR.

page 70. The Dardanelles is a minor water body that could easily be omitted. The Baltic Sea would be an appropriate addition to the list of "Bodies of Water."

EVALUATION OF AFP 200-2-7

ETHNOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE GROUPS

Comments and corrections are as follows:

Foreword. Central USSR should be bounded on the west primarily by the Ural Mountains, since the Urals are given as the eastern limit of the Northwest USSR in AFP 200-2-5. The meridian of 60°E longitude is a poor boundary line in the southwest, particularly for the desert region in the vicinity of the Aral Sea. A more acceptable western limit for Central USSR, the area covered by the text, would be the Ural Mountains on the west and the Ural River and the Caspian Sea on the southwest.

page 3. The eastern boundary of the area inhabited by Ukrainians should be the Ob' River rather than the Irtysh River. A large settlement of Ukrainians is located in the Kalmyk Steppe and is associated with the newly developed virgin and fallow lands program.

page 2-5. The designation for the church of the Great Russians, Ukrainians, and the Komi should be "Russian Orthodox" rather than "Greek Orthodox."

page 4. The southern limit of the area occupied by the Komi is 62°N latitude.

page 5. Bellups inhibit an area between 60°E longitude and the Yenisey River.

page 5-6. The Kazakhs are located in an area extending from the Volga River eastward to slightly beyond the Irtysh River rather than only to the northeast of the Kyzyl Kum Desert.

page 6. The major concentration of Turkicans is along the Amu Darya River Valley; the remainder are located between the Amu Darya and the Caspian Sea.

page 7. The southern limit of the area occupied by the Kety people is 60°N latitude.

page 10. "Uzbek" should read "Uzbeks."

page 16. "Krasnogorsk" should probably read "Krasnoyarsk." The six largest cities in Central USSR arranged in order of their population are Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, and Karaganda.

page 22. The natural vegetation of the grasslands consists chiefly of feather grasses (*Stipa stenophylla* and *Stipa capillata*), fescue (*Festuca sulcata*), and koeleria (*Koeleria gracilis*). Much of

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The soil in the dry steppe regions has a feather-grass type of vegetation, predominantly Leesing's feather grass and capillary feather grass. Reed-grass is confined mainly to the wetter sections of the river valleys, primarily within the forest steppe region. In connection with the development of virgin and fallow lands, the grasslands of Central USSR have become centers of extensive wheat and some cotton production.

page 25. "ares" in the first paragraph should read "acres."

page 26. The width of the Arctic Urals is 15 to 40 miles.

page 26. The ranges of the southern Urals run predominantly in a northeast-southwest direction.

page 26. The eastern slopes of the Urals are dissected by incised river valleys, making cross-country movement extremely difficult in a north-south direction.

page 26. The typical forest cover in the Northern and Central Urals is spruce with admixtures of birch. At higher elevations near the timberline, stunted Siberian larch and Manchurian alder are the dominant species. Siberian stone pine is common on the eastern slopes of the Northern Urals. Cedre pine, mentioned in the text, is not found in the Urals, but rather in the Carpathians.

page 27. "Plateaus" would be a better designation than "plains" for the high, flat-to-rolling terrain in and adjacent to the mountainous regions.

page 31. Railroads have been extended rapidly in the southern part of Central USSR. Some of the more important lines that have recently been completed are the Mointy-Cha line, a north-south line at the western end of Lake Balkhash, and the Chardzha-Kungrad line, which parallels the Amu Darya River. In addition to the strategic Trans-Siberian and the South Siberian lines that cross in a east-west direction, a new line to connect Kustanay, Kokchetav, Karasuk and Pavmul is under construction; and parts of it are already in use.

page 35. "guillenets" should read "guillarts."

page 48. Land tortoises are common in the desert and semidesert regions.

page 53. The symptoms and effects of the spider bites of the black widow (Kera Kurt) and the tarantula (Musgir) appear to be reversed. Contrary to the text, the bite of the black widow spider found in Central USSR can be deadly to man, whereas the bite of the tarantula is more or less poisonous but is not dangerous to man.

page 55. Full-grown dairy and beef cattle might weigh from 110 to 225 pounds, but they would be very uncommon. The smallest types of

Soviet domestic cattle are dairy breeds like the Caucasus mountain cattle, weighing about 600 pounds, and the Siberian cattle, weighing 650 to 800 pounds. The smallest beef cattle are the Kirghiz and Kirgiz breeds, which weigh from 650 to 800 pounds.

page 55. Moose are unlikely to be used to any significant extent as draft or pack animals.

pages 57-63. The section entitled "Russian Language Guide" contains numerous errors and should be thoroughly overhauled. The following are selected examples of obvious errors:

page 58. Under the "Phonetic Transciplnation" column, "KG slaykt-kay" should read "KG kraykt-ko-yek".

page 59. "мечь" and "мечьдесят" should read "шечь" and "шечьдесят."

pages 59-61. The curved lines used to indicate letters that are to be pronounced together are omitted throughout the section. The letter "O" should be given an "A" phonetic value except when appearing in accented syllables (see phonetic spelling for "please", "cold", "bed" etc.). As in the other Pamphlets, the equivalents of certain words appearing in the "Pronunciation" and "Russian Spelling" columns do not correspond or are incorrect. Compare, for example, the pronunciation and Russian spelling for the following words and phrases: American, help, guide, bedding, Where can I hide?, Good evening, Good night, and Good afternoon. The hyphen. The hyphen is used under the "Phonetic Transciplnation" column where it is not necessary (see equivalent for "I am" and "follow me"). Considering the limited language knowledge of the average reader, the column entitled "Russian Spelling" could be omitted.

pages 61 and 62. The Russian words for "mines" and "march" are incorrect.

page 62. Under "Cities and Towns" Petrozavodsk could be deleted as it is only a small city located in Northwest USSR. The name of the city of Chalyabinsk is incorrectly spelled in English and has the wrong equivalent in Russian.

page 62. The Karaganda Mountains are not significant enough to warrant inclusion under "Mountains."